attract industries. The allotment of growth centres to various States was made by the Planning Commission on the basis of a combined criteria of area, population in relation to industrial potential and employment and extent of industrial backwardness in the State. A list of these 71 growth centres and their status alongwith Central assistance released indicated against each of them is at Annexure. (See Appendix 186, Annexure No. 22)

Awareness about Patents and TRIPS

1294. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel the necessity of creating awareness in the people about Patents and TRIPS in view of their importance in coming years;

(b) if so, whether they have any proposal to do so;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) In order to create awareness about intellectual property rights, including patents and TRIPs, Government has been organising awareness programmes, seminars, etc. Further, in the project relating to modernisation of Patent Office, funds have been earmarked for taking up awareness activities in the coming years.

Operation of MNCs

1295. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reviewing operations of direct marketing by multi-national companies; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken to control their operations?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Review of operations and policies is constantly under taken by Government as an input for further policy formulation.

Proposals cleared by FIPB

1296 SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals considered and cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board, so far, during the current year with estimated cost and industry with State-wise break up;

(b) how does it compare with that of the corresponding period during the last two years;

(c) the details of proposals pending/ under consideration; and

(d) what is the most favoured state and destination during recent year for foreign investment with number of proposals and quantum of investment proposed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) Sir, 1349 foreign technical and financial proposals involving foreign direct investment (FDI) to the tune of Rs. 22625.90 crore have so far been cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) from April, 98 to December, 98. Statement giving Industry-wise and State-wise details of foreign direct investment enclosed as Annexure *(See* Appendix 186, Annexure No.—23) During the corresponding periods of 1996 and 1997, 1717 and 1720 foreign technical and financial proposals involving foreign direct investment (FDI) to the tune of Rs. 27721.03 crore and Rs. 34804.41 crore were approved respectively.

As on date, 59 proposals are pending/ under consideration.

Receipt of disposal of applications filed for consideration by FIPB/Government is

a continuous process. Efforts are continuously made to dispose off pending applications within the time frame set out for consideration of such proposals.

The investment in different parts of the country is basically guided by the commercial judgement of the investors which is based on various concessions & infrastructure facilities etc. provided by the respective State Government for industrial promotion as this the concern of State Government. Central Government, however, plays a supportive and pro-active role.

Encouragement to Auto Industry

1297. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to give fillip to auto industry; and

(b) it *so,* the details of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Government has been continuously encouraging the growth of automotive sector. Industrial Licensing and capacity constraints have been removed. Commercial vehicles and auto components have been categorised as priority sector for foreign direct investment. For foreign equity participation upto 51% equity, the Reserve bank of India accords automatic approval. For equity participation involving more than 51% Government has been liberal in approving such cases. Since liberalisation, the automobile sector has shown a spectacular over all growth rate of over 20% (1993-94 to 1996-97) in the number of vehicles manufactured. Owing to slow down of the economy, this industry has been passing through a phase of sluggish growth during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99. To overcome the demand constraints high depreciation rate for commercial vehicles and scrapping of 15 years old vehicles in Delhi have been implemented. The thrust given for new housing and infrastructure initiatives for investment in road sector in the budget for 1999-2000 is likely to give further fillip for growth of this industry.

Monitoring of PMRY

1298. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any separate or special cell is operating in Prime Minister's Office to monitor Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, in what manner Prime! Minister's Office is involved under the scheme;

(d) whether PMRY scheme has been recently reviewed, if so, the extent of success achieved under the scheme, so far;

(e) whether any suggestion to amend the scheme has come forth; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) No separate or special cell is operating in the Prime Minister's Office to monitor the Prime Minister, Rozgar Yojana. Periodic progress reports of the Prime Minister, Rozgar Yojana are sent to the Prime Minister's Office. Status notes on the implementation of the scheme for the States arc also sent to the Prime Minister's Office as and when asked for.

(d) The scheme is constantly monitored and reviewed, Against the plan target of 9,20,000 beneficiaries, 10,38,090 cases were sanctioned and 7,61,758 cases were disbursed loans by banks from 1993-94 to 1997-98, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India.

(e) and (0 The scheme has been modified recently. The salient features of the modifications are age relaxation by 10 years for women, scheduled castes/ scheduled tribes, physically handicapped and ex-servicemen; the educational